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THE SCHOOL-BOY IN POLITICS.

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MDCCLVI.

THE SCHOOL-BOY IN POLITICS.

HAVE you got your Catechiſm well by Heart?

A. Yes.

Q. What is a good Government?

A. A Nation governed by its Sovereign, according to Law, and according to its true Intereſt.

Q. What

Q. What is Miſ-government?

A. Miniſters governing the Sovereign by his Weakneſſes, and their own.

Q. When may a Nation moſt juſtifiably wiſh for a Change of Miniſtry?

A. When, never more in Want of a good one, it ſhall have the worſt, and cannot poſſibly change but for the better.

Q. What is *Pruſſia* about?

A. Fighting the Battles of the *French* King.

Q. Has not *Britain* Reaſons to be glad of the Queen of *Hungary*'s Defeat?

A. Yes: If it prefers the Gratification of a momentary Reſentment, to the Conſideration of its permanent Intereſt.

Q. Would not the *French* King be ſorry that ten thouſand of his new dear Allies the *Auſtrians*, were cut off?

A. Helliſhly: —— That there were not twenty Thouſand.

Q. What

Q. What do you think of this new Alliance of the Houſes of *Auſtria* and *Bourbon*?

A. Worſe yet, than of that made by *Ripperda*, between *Spain* and the Emperor, and that if it ſhould be more durable than that, it will be but the more deſtructive to the true Intereſt of *Britain*.

Q. Do you think there is any ſecret Convention between *France* and *Pruſſia*, in Conſequence of which *Pruſſia* threw itſelf at the Head of *Britain*?

A. It is not a Pin's Point Matter, whether it was ſo or no. In either Suppoſition *Britain* muſt ultimately ſuffer.

Q. How ſo?

A. If there was ſuch a Convention, the Ruin of the Houſe of *Auſtria* will be the ſurer. If not, that of *Pruſſia* is no improbable Event, notwithſtanding the firſt Flaſh of Succeſs. Both Events unfavorable to *Britain*.

Q. Why?

A. In

A. In the firſt, it will have the Diſpleaſure to ſee a Houſe deſtroy'd, for preſerving the neceſſary Support of which it has expended ſo much Blood, and many Millions: In the other, it will have every Thing to dread from the Reſentment of a Power, back'd by ſuch ſtrong Alliances with the Enemies of *Britain.*

Q. What do you think of *Pruſſia* courting the Alliance of *Britain?*

A. That he ſeems preciſely to have reſerved the Offer of it, for that Conjucture, in which it could do the moſt Diſſervice to *Britain,* and the leaſt Good.

Q. What Play could be acted on the Continent moſt for the Benefit of the *French?*

A. That which is now actually playing, and which it is ſo probable that they have beſpoke; and are now laughing in their Sleeves, to ſee *German* Swords cutting of *German* Throats. Perhaps too they will prove ſo *kind* as to lend a *helping* Hand.

Q. What

Q. What Powers may *Pruſſia* probably draw on its Back, if not pre-aſſured of the ſecret Connivance of ſome of them?

A. France, *Spain*, *Ruſſia*, *Saxony*, *Poland*, the whole Roman-Catholic Intereſt of *Germany*, the Queen of *Hungary*, and laſtly, the Authority of the Emperor, which, inconſiderable as it is, can hardly be ſo much ſo, as not to be worth mentioning.

Q. What do you think of *Denmark* and *Sweden*?

A. That they will be, at the beſt, indifferent: Perhaps take Part, and that not in Favor of *Britain*.

Q. What of *Holland*?

A. That it will never be hearty in Favor of that Power, that ſhould attempt to force it to break its Syſtem of Neutrality, and that after cramming a Stadtholder down its Throat, would now do the ſame with a War, which it abhors, and which it is in no State of Undertaking.

 Q. What

Q. What do you think of the K—— of *Naples?*

A. That he will never forget that he is a Son of *Spain?*

Q. What Alliance would you recommend to *Britain?*

A. That of *Barbary.*

Q. What do you think of the Queen of *Hungary*'s Plan of invading *Pruſſia?*

A. That *Pruſſia* never could once doubt of her Diſpoſition towards him, ſince his wreſting *Sileſia* from her, and that he therefore could not be ſurprized at ſuch an Information.

Q. Who do you think were his INFORMERS?

A. Surely not the *Britiſh* Miniſters: They would have diſdained ſuch a Part, even had they been provoked by the Queen's Refuſal to concur with their Meaſures.

Q. What

Q. What might be the real Motive at Bottom of her Non-concurrence?

A. Very probably, the Exorbitance of her Demands for Money, beyond what they were either able, or willing to grant; upon which they were forced into that ſtrange Treaty with *Ruſſia*, and that ſtranger yet with *Pruſſia*.

Q. Was not the Queen of *Hungary* ungrateful?

A. No more than all Princes are: Their Gratitude generally ending where the leaſt Difference of Intereſt begins.

Q. Do you approve then of her Alliance with a Power naturally her Enemy, and who can never be cordially or long her Friend?

A. No, but I think that ſhe is perhaps ſtill more to be pitied than blamed.

Q. Can *Pruſſia* be of Weight enough to be ſubſtituted to the Houſe of *Auſtria*, for keeping up the Ballance of Power againſt that of *Bourbon*.

A. Suppoſe, what is not however ſuppoſeable, that he could, would *Britain* have a better

better Bargain of his Alliance, or a greater Dependence on it?

Q. What do you judge, on the Report of forty thouſand *Pruſſians* to be taken into *Britiſh* Pay?

A. That no *Briton* will dare to make the Propoſal.

Q. Who may then?

A. The Miniſters —— to *H——r.*

Q. What is the Difference of *Britain* paying Tribute to *Germany*, as if conquered by it, or in the Shape of Subſidies?

A. None: Only that the laſt is infinitely more ſcandalous.

Q. What do you think of the Charge of the *French* King againſt *Britain* and *Pruſſia*, for kindling a War in *Germany*, out of private Intereſt or Revenge?

A. That, it is to be hoped, it is a falſe one, otherwiſe the worſt Enemies of either *Germany* or *Britain* are not the *French.*

Q. When

Q. When may a Nation be ſaid to have but an uncomfortable Proſpect?

A. When thoſe who ſhould adminiſter the Cure are themſelves the Diſeaſe.

Q. What is the greateſt Symptom of Weakneſs in the Body Politic?

A. Its being in Prey to Vermin, which as, Phyſicians obſerve, are ever apteſt to breed in weak Juices.

Q. What Method of Cure may be in ſuch Caſe recommended?

A. Louſing itſelf in the Sun.

Q. Are not Murmurs againſt a Miniſtry often occaſioned by there not being Places enough, to tye up the Tongues of thoſe that want them?

A. Ay! of thoſe perhaps that want the Places, but not that that the Places want; for, on a moderate Calculation, there are ten Places for one Subject that is fit to fill them.

Q. What did the Word Patriot once ſignify?

A. Every

A. Every Thing that was great, noble, and deſirable.

Q. What does it now ſignify?

A. A little, deſpicable, prevaricating Wretch, who ſhams a red hot Zeal for his Country, not becauſe it is his Country, but in order to make a Property or a Prey of it.

Q. What is the greateſt Grievance of a Mock-Patriot?

A. To ſee others preferred to him, when himſelf is every Whit as venal, and as ready to ruin his Country as they are.

Q. What is the Difference between a *French* Courtier and an *Engliſh* one?

A. The one thinks he can never do enough for his King and Country: The other that his King and Country can never do enough for him.

Q. Are there no true Patriots left?

A. One would hope there are, if but for the Honor of not reſembling thoſe who are not ſo.

Q. Is

Q. Is not Experience in Affairs a great Argument for retaining old Miniſters?

A. Undoubtedly, when there has been any Proof of their Judgment; otherwiſe not: Experience may improve Judgment, but never create it where it is not: Thence the eternal Noviciate of Fools in Buſineſs: Like Dwarfs condemned never to exceed their ſtunted Stature.

Q. Who are the beſt Judges of Miniſters?

A. The Public undoubtedly: It rarely errs in its Love or Hate, but never in its Contempt of them.

Q. Can a Miniſtry be ſenſible when it is hated by the Public?

A. Certainly: And withal can never but know the Reaſon why it is ſo.

Q. What if deſpiſed: How then?

A. A Miniſtry never can know it, nor conſequently the Reaſon why it is deſpiſed. The Vanity of Men will always keep the Contempt of others a Secret from themſelves, eſpecially thoſe in Power, whoſe Mob of Dependents

is at their Ear ready to out-voice the popular Hiſs, and keep aloof that unwelcome Truth.

Q. What is the Politicians great Art at preſent?

A. That of deceiving the Nation and themſelves.

Q. Why were Foreigners called in to defend the Nation?

A. Becauſe of its being ſo thin of *Britons?*

Q. How came ſuch a Depopulation?

A. By a dreadful Contagion.

Q. What Part of the Body did it firſt attack?

A. The Heart, from whence it inſtantly reached the Head.

Q. Where is the Heart ſituate?

A. According to modern Anatomy, in the Palm of the Hand.

Q. How was the Infection propagated?

A. By touching.

Q. What is the worſt Corruption?

A. That

A. That of the Heart, infinitely.

Q. What is the Law's great Objection to Murder?

A. Its deſtroying the King's Subjects.

Q. Has not Corruption that Effect?

A. It has a much worſe one. Literal Murder only kills the Body, and it is buried out of the Way. But the figurative Murder, by Corruption, deſtroys the Soul of the Subject, and leaves the ſpiritleſs Carcaſe, a walking Nuiſance, an Infection to the Air.

Q. What is the Conſequence of the Lands in *America* being meaſured out by a *French* Perch?

A. That there may be ſoon the ſame Meaſure in old *England.*

Q. How came *Portmahon* to be loſt?

A. Aſk the Miniſtry.

Q. Was not the Inſtant of its Loſs, the proper one for convening the Great Council of the Nation?

A, It did not ſeem ſo to the *little* Council.

Q. Is it not admirable Policy to give Minds inflamed by a Loſs Time to cool? Is it not ſo much gained upon the *Enemy?*

A. Yes, when that Loſs is either a ſmall one, or that the Wound can ſkin over of itſelf. Otherwiſe, when it is an irreparable Loſs, or that the Wound continues ſtill bleeding; the Provocation is only the greater, for the paultry Palliative of a Procraſtination.

Q. What is the fineſt Oeconomy of Time?

A. To drive off every Thing to the laſt, ſo that the leaſt Time may ſerve for huddling up every Thing, and for an Excuſe, at once for aſking Aids, and refuſing Redreſs.

Q. When is it ſuperfluous to addreſs for an Enquiry into the Cauſes of Miſcarriages?

A. When they are too palpable to need any, and when the Time preſſes ſo as to require at once the Removal of thoſe Cauſes, and the ſtopping of the Progreſs of their Effects.

Q. What is Public Credit?

A. A Fiddle-ſtring; which will bear playing

ing on, to a certain Pitch: Screw it up too high, and it ſnaps.

Q. What is the niceſt Manufacture?

A. The Paper-manufacture of Money.

Q. What are the greateſt live Forces of a Nation.

A. Great Men.

Q. Are there many now in Play in *Britain*?

A. No, it is at preſent ſo happily conſtituted, as to be able to do its Buſineſs without them, much in the Style of that notable Gameſter, who diſcarded the Matadors, and choſe to play his Game out with the ſmall Cards.

Q. What is the moſt indiſpenſable Eſſential to the Succeſs of Miniſters?

A. The Confidence of the Public.

Q. May not they be robbed of it?

A. Never, but by themſelves.

Q. Why do not the Men in Place promote Merit?

A. Becauſe

A. Becauſe Merit never promoted them.

Q. What is the loweſt, dirtieſt, meaneſt of all Mobs?

A. The Mob of a taſteleſs Court.

Q. What would have been the Difference to *Britain*, if, ſince the Revolution, it had never pragmatically interfered in the Quarrels on the Continent, or beyond its natural Concern in them?

A. Probably, the whole Difference, *at leaſt*, of the National Debt.

Q. What is now to be conſidered?

A. That the ſhorteſt Follies are the beſt: diſintangle from the Continent, provide for Home-ſecurity, by its natural Defenders, and for Reſpect from Abroad, by throwing all the Force that can be ſpared into our naval Armaments.

Q. Have you any more to offer?

A. This is enough for one Leſſon.

F I N I S.